



TEW

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Koichiro NAKATANI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3748

Application No.: 10/617,864

Examiner: B. Tran

Filed: July 14, 2003

Docket No.: 115932

For: EXHAUST EMISSION CONTROL METHOD AND SYSTEM

APPLICANTS' SEPARATE RECORD OF PERSONAL INTERVIEW
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.133(b)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following is Applicants' record of the personal interview conducted November 16, 2004.

During the personal interview, Applicants traversed the § 102(e) rejection on the grounds that Takahashi does not disclose an exhaust emission control system that repeatedly performs "a temperature control process ... to raise the temperature of the emission control device when the air/fuel ratio of exhaust gas is leaner than the stoichiometric air/fuel ratio," as recited in amended claims 1 and 12. Applicants explained to Examiner Tran that although the temperature appears to be rising between t_0 and t_2 in Fig. 19 of Takahashi, that temperature rise is not caused by emission control method disclosed in Takahashi. Applicants further explained that the temperature rise between t_0 and t_2 in Fig. 19 of Takahashi is caused by normal operation of the engine 1.

Applicants noted that, even if the temperature rise during a lean air/fuel mixture between t_0 and t_2 in Fig. 19 of Takahashi could be considered part of the emission control method, that temperature rise is not repeated, as recited in claims 1 and 12.

Examiner Tran indicated that he would like to review Takahashi before formally withdrawing the rejection. Examiner Tran agreed that, upon review, if Takahashi did not disclose repeating the lean air/fuel mixture temperature rise, he would withdraw the rejection.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JOC/tea

Date: November 16, 2004

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